

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 5, 2007

TO: All Members of the Delaware State Senate
and House of Representatives

FROM: Ms. Daniese McMullin-Powell
Chairperson
State Council for Persons with Disabilities

RE: H.B. 112 [Council on Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities]

The State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) has reviewed H.B. 112, which would add three members to the Council on Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities from the Delaware Aging Network. Council opposes the concept of the bill based on the following observations.

First, the current membership was established to have equal representation from both the aging and physical disabilities communities. Please see attached 29 Del.C Section 7915(c) which states in part the following: (c) The Council on Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities shall be composed of 22 members who shall be appointed for 3-year terms by the Governor. Eleven members of the Council shall be comprised of aging consumers. Eleven members shall represent adults with physical disabilities. The proposed legislation would disproportionately skew the membership of the Council in favor of the aging community.

Second, SCPD does not believe there is a need for the bill since there is currently a process in place for individuals to be appointed by the Governor. Representatives from the Delaware Aging Network could simply apply for membership on the Council like everyone else.

Third, if the sponsors pursue the legislation, SCPD recommends that it be amended to result in equal representation from both the aging and physical disabilities community.

Thank you for your consideration and please contact SCPD if you have any questions regarding our position or observations on the proposed legislation.

cc: The Honorable Ruth Ann Minner
Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens
Developmental Disabilities Council

